

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicant to the Examiner's comments and rejection of various of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action.

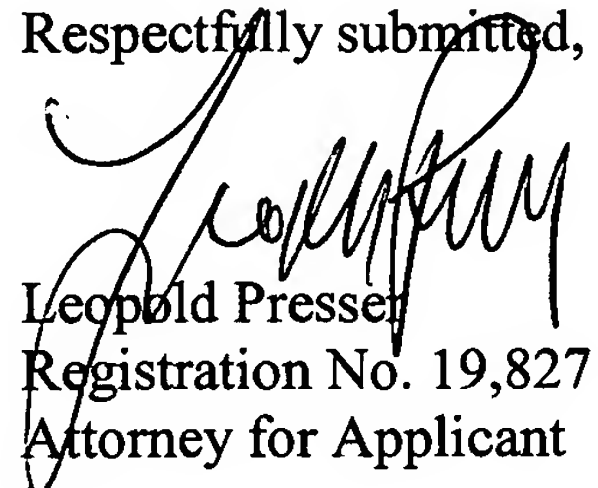
Furthermore, applicant gratefully notes the Examiner's indication that with the exception of a minor formal amendment to Claim 17, Claims 17-24 have been allowed. Furthermore, applicant gratefully notes the Examiner's indication that Claims 9-11 and 14-16 are considered to be directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form or in a form including all of the limitations of a base claim and any intervening claims.

Furthermore, applicant notes the Examiner's rejection of Claims 6-8, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Whitley, et al., U.S. Patent No. 2,663,029, in view of Parliaman, U.S. Patent No. 513,246, as detailed in the Office Action.

Accordingly, in order to clearly and unambiguously present claims which are deemed to be allowable in view of the art, irrespective as to whether the latter is considered singly or in combination, applicant has amended Claim 6 to incorporate the feature that the band is tied and also supported from the supporting rod in a manner whereby the drawing of the band causes a movement of the supporting rod in the sliding slot. To the contrary, in Whitley, et al, U.S. Patent No. 2,663,029, the band 38 is neither tied nor is it suspended from the supporting rod 42, whereby drawing of the band 38 would not result in any movement of the supporting rod 42. This is also applicable to Parliaman, U.S. Patent No. 513,246 and, consequently, the amendment of Claim 6 by the applicant to incorporate this particular feature clearly distinguishes in a patentable mode over both references, irrespective as to whether they are considered singly or in combination.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, which are deemed to be fully responsive in view of the presence of allowable claims, the early issuance of the Notice of Allowance by the Examiner is earnestly solicited. However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicant's attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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